



INSIGHTS

108th Congress

February 4, 2004

*Also available on the FEMP Home Page at
www.eere.energy.gov/femp/resources/insights.html.*

Weekly Summary

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INSIGHTS is prepared expressly for the Department of Energy's Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). The purpose of ***INSIGHTS*** is to provide FEMP management staff with timely information on legislative activities relevant to the program. ***INSIGHTS*** is prepared for FEMP by Energetics, Incorporated, (202) 479-2748.

I. WEEKLY SUMMARY

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE

This week, Congress will focus on the President's FY 2005 Budget Request and reauthorization of some key bills, as highlighted below. *Also refer to Section VI. Hearing Schedule.*

HOUSE

This week, the following activities are scheduled:

- Hearing on the *FY 2005 Defense Authorization* bill (Committee on Armed Services)
- Hearing on the Impact of Science on Public Policy (Committee on Resources)

SENATE

- Hearings on *FY 2005 Defense Authorization* bill (Committee on Armed Services)
- Hearing FY 2005 Budget Request for Federal Government Security (Committees on the Budget)
- Mark up of the *TEA-21 (Transportation Reauthorization)* bill (Committee on Finance)
- Hearing on National Parks bills (Committee on Energy and Natural Resources)

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II. COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

HOUSE

Legislation

No new bills of interest to report.

Summary of Hearings

No hearings of interest to report.

SENATE

Legislation

No new bills of interest to report.

Summary of Hearings

No hearings of interest to report.

STATUS OF FY 2005 APPROPRIATIONS

Congress is scheduled to be on recess during the week of April 12. As a result, the Republican Leadership has established a target to pass the non-binding FY 2005 Budget Resolution in advance of the recess. The standard date for passage is April 15.

In addition, due to the abbreviated Congressional year in which Congress plans to adjourn by early October for the upcoming Congressional and Presidential elections, some Republican Leaders have indicated that only a few of the 13 annual appropriations bills will be passed by adjournment date. Ted Stevens (R/AK), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations reportedly stated that the three appropriations bills he expects to pass before the end of the Congressional year include: Defense, Homeland Security, and Military Construction. With respect to an FY 2005 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill, no such bill is expected until calendar year 2005.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES/VOTES

H.R. 6 – Energy Policy Act of 2003 Congress continues to struggle with passage of a comprehensive energy bill. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham noted during his budget roll-out remarks earlier this week, that passage of an energy bill this year remains a priority for the Department. Meanwhile, the House and Senate Republicans held a retreat last week in Philadelphia, which included some Administration officials to map out a strategy for this Congressional year. Topics covered included the FY 2005 budget and annual appropriations bills, *H.R. 6*, among other issues. Various scenarios for passing the energy bill began circulating earlier this week, including attaching ethanol provisions to the six-year Department of Transportation (highway) reauthorization bill – *TEA-21*, reducing the tax incentive package of over \$24 billion to about \$13 billion, attaching the entire tax incentive title to *TEA-21*, and separating out various titles as “stand-alone-bills,” similar to the reliability bill introduced by Maria Cantwell (D/WA). Late Tuesday, Chairman Domenici announced plans to produce a new bill based on *H.R. 6*. Chairman Domenici said he wanted to “trim the cost of this bill while keeping its core provisions intact,” and that the bill, which is now with the Congressional Budget Office, should be ready for review by the end of the week. Various options are opened to the Senate with the most likely being reducing the cost of the \$31 billion bill by up to \$12 billion by cutting tax incentives and by removing the controversial and House initiated provision that provides liability protection to MTBE manufacturers; MTBE is recognized as a ground water contaminant. However, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R/TX) has said that the House, which introduced and approved the MTBE liability provision, would not accept this proposal. The bill could be presented as a comprehensive energy bill or attached to one of three reauthorization bills for transportation (*TEA-21*), the welfare bill, or the foreign services corporation tax bill – all currently moving through Congress. Another option is to split the bill up and pass major titles or issues as stand-alone bills similar to the electric reliability bill recently introduced by Maria Cantwell (D/WA).

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III. NEW LEGISLATION

(Note: Once a new bill is introduced, the Government Printing Office generally requires from several days to one week to make the bill available in print)

HOUSE

No new bills of interest to report.

SENATE

No new bills of interest to report.

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IV. ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVES

FY 2005 Budget Request On Monday, February 2, the President submitted his FY 2005 Budget Request to Congress. The request was developed on achieving three primary goals: 1) winning the war on terrorism, 2) protecting America by Securing our Homeland, and 3) strengthening our economy.

Provided below are some budget highlights:

Funding:

- Total FY 2005 Budget Request: \$2.4 trillion
- Increases defense-related spending by 7 percent
- Increases Homeland Security spending by 10 percent
- Maintains spending for discretionary programs at .5 percent

Department of Energy Program Activities of Interest - *recommends the following:*

Energy Conservation - \$875.933 million (vs. 877.984 in FY 2004) and includes:

- **Federal Energy Management Program - \$17.9 million (vs. \$19.716 million in FY 2004):**

Project Financing - \$7.450 million (vs. 8.126 million in FY 2004)

Technical Guidance and Evaluation - \$7.9 million (vs. \$8.140 million in FY 2004)

Planning, Reporting, and Evaluation - \$2.550 million (vs. \$2.571 million in FY 2004)

Technical/Program Management Support - \$ 0 (vs. \$879,000 in FY 2004)

- Building Technologies - \$58.284 million (vs. \$59.866 million in FY 2004)
- ENERGYSTAR® - \$5 million (vs. 3.654 million in FY 2004)
- Distributed Energy Resources - \$53.080 million (vs. \$61.023 million in FY 2004)
- Industrial Technologies - \$58.102 million (vs. \$93.068 million in FY 2004)
- Fuel Cell Technologies - \$77.5 million (vs. \$65.187 million in FY 2004)

Renewable Energy - \$374.812 million (vs. \$339.716 million in FY 2004) and includes:

- **Departmental Energy Management Program - \$1.963 million (vs. \$2 million in FY 2004)**
- Zero Energy Buildings - \$0 million (vs. \$.0 in FY 2004)
- Solar Buildings - \$80.333 million (vs. \$85 million in FY 2004)
- Wind Energy- \$41.6 million (same as FY 2004)
- Intergovernmental Activities - \$16 million (vs. \$15 million in FY 2004)
- Renewable Program Support - \$0 (vs. \$4 million in FY 2004)

Other Federal Agency Program Highlights

- National Institute of Standards and Technology – \$59 million for construction of research facilities
- Department of Defense – \$5.288 million for Military Construction and \$4.173 million for Family Housing
- National Park Service – 1) reduces maintenance and construction backlog and 2) establishes specific goals to improve priority buildings to good condition by 2006
- Department of Justice – places a moratorium on new prison construction while promoting privatization of facilities
- Department of Interior – \$1.7 million to facilitate the development of renewable energy resources such as wind and geothermal energy on public lands.

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V. HEARINGS SCHEDULE

HOUSE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issue	Witnesses	Time/Location
February 25 – Full Committee	Bill Young (R/FL)	Hearing – <i>FY 2004 Appropriations for Interior and Related Agencies</i>	Secretary Gale Norton, Department of the Interior	10:00 a.m. Room B-308 Rayburn Office Building
February 26 – Full Committee	Bill Young (R/FL)	Hearing – <i>FY 2004 Appropriations for Interior and Related Agencies</i>	Secretary Spencer Abraham, Department of Energy	10:00 a.m. Room B-308 Rayburn Office Building

HOUSE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
February 4 - Committee on Armed Services	Duncan Hunter (R/CA)	Hearing – <i>FY 2005 Defense Authorization bill</i>	Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary, Department of Defense	1:00 p.m. Room 2118 Rayburn Office Building
(NEW)			General Richard Myers, USAF Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff	
			Dov Zakheim, Under Secretary, Department of Defense	
February 4 – Committee on Veteran’s Affairs	Christopher Smith (R/NJ)	Hearing – <i>FY 2005 Budget Request for the Department of Veteran’s Affairs</i>	TBA	10:00 a.m. Room 334 Cannon Office Building
February 4 – Committee on Resources (NEW)	Richard Pombo (R/CA)	Hearing – <i>Impact of science on public policy</i>	TBA	2:00 .m. Room 1324 Longworth Office Building

SENATE – COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

No events of interest have been scheduled.

SENATE – AUTHORIZATIONS/OVERSIGHT

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
February 3 – Committee on Armed Services	John Warner (R/VA)	Hearing – <i>FY 2005 Defense Authorization bill</i>	Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary, Department of Defense General Richard Myers, U.S. Air Force Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff	9:30 a.m. Room 216 Hart Office Building
(NEW)				
February 3 – Committee on the Budget	Don Nickles (R/OK)	Hearing – FY 2005 Budget Request	Joshua Bolten, Director, Office of Budget and Management	10 a.m. Room 608 Dirksen Office Building
(NEW)				
February 4 – Committee on the Budget	Don Nickles (R/OK)	Hearing – FY 2005 Budget Request	TBA	10 a.m. Room 608 Dirksen Office Building
(NEW)				
February 5 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	Pete Domenici (R/NM)	Hearing – National Parks Bills including a bill to permanently extend the Recreation Fee program for Parks (funding is used for park projects, including facilities)	Various officials representing the Department of Interior and outside witnesses	2:30 p.m. Room 366 Dirksen Office Building
(NEW)				
February 9 – Committee on Governmental Affairs	Susan Collins (R/ME)	Hearing – FY 2005 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security	TBA	10 a.m. Room 342 Dirksen Office Building
(NEW)				
February 10 –	John Warner	Hearing –	General Peter Schoomaker,	9:30 a.m. Room 325

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
Committee on Armed Services <i>(NEW)</i>	(R/VA)	FY 2005 <i>Defense Authorization</i> bill	Chief of Staff, United States Army Admiral Vernon Clark, Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy General Michael Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, U.S. Marine Corps General John Jumper, Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force	Russell Office Building
February 10 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources <i>(NEW)</i>	Pete Dominici (R/NM)	Hearing – FY 2005 Budget Request for the Department of Energy	TBA	10 a.m. Room 366 Dirksen Office Building
February 10 – Committee on Veterans' Affairs <i>(NEW)</i>	Arlen Specter (R/PA)	Hearing – FY 2005 Budget Request for the Department of Veterans Affairs'	TBA	2:00 p.m. Room 418 Russell Office Building
February 12 – Committee on the Budget <i>(NEW)</i>	Don Nickles (R/OK)	Hearing – FY 2005 Budget Request	TBA	10:00 a.m. Room 608 Dirksen Office Building
February 12 – Committee on Energy and Natural Resources <i>(NEW)</i>	Pete Dominici (R/NM)	Hearing – FY 2005 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior	TBA	10 a.m. Room 366 Dirksen Office Building

Date/Committee	Chair	Hearing Title/Issues	Witnesses	Time/ Location
March 2 – Committee on Armed Services (NEW)	John Warner (R/VA)	Hearing – <i>FY 2005 Defense Authorization bill</i>	Les Brownlee, Acting Secretary, U.S. Army Gordon England, Secretary, U.S. Navy James Roche, Secretary, U.S. Air Force	9:30 a.m. Room 216 Hart Office Building

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS AND FLOOR VOTES

No activities of interest have been scheduled.

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